



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

History Happens Here

*Civil War Stories
from North Carolina*

Distance Learning Program

Teacher Supplement

Table of Contents

[Program Overview](#) 3

[Postprogram Activities](#) 4

Activities Regarding the Civil War in North Carolina:

[Map the Civil War in North Carolina](#) 5

[Article: "Hardship and Heartbreak: Surviving the War at Home"](#) 9

[Article: "American Indians and the Civil War"](#) 11

[Article: "The Salisbury Confederate Prison"](#) 13

[Article: "William Woods Holden and the North Carolina Peace Movement during the Civil War"](#) 17

[Article: "Fort Fisher"](#) 19

[Article: "African Americans in Union-Occupied Eastern North Carolina during the Civil War"](#) 23

[Life in Letters](#) 26

[Article: "'I Want to Come Home So Bad'"](#) 27

[Inflation on the Civil War Home Front](#) 32

[Contact Information](#) 35

Program Overview

Civil War Stories from North Carolina focuses on five North Carolina families and their lives during the war. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, students will discover that there was no one way to experience the many events and changes brought about by this war.

The **Postprogram Activities** include several articles from *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine and suggested activities. These materials will encourage students to think about life in North Carolina during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR RESOURCES FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

History-in-a-Box: *North Carolina and the Civil War*

Explore the Civil War in North Carolina through touch objects that tell stories of a soldier on the battlefield and a woman on the home front. The companion video features a young soldier relating his wartime experiences. Resources for teachers include background materials, lessons, and activities. The kit is available for loan for three weeks at no charge (you pay return UPS shipping). To order, call 919-807-7984 or go to <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/edu/HistoryBox.html> for an order form.

Distance Learning Program: *Civil War History Mystery*

Civil War History Mystery focuses on ways that historians unravel mysteries from the past. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, students will become historians as they use observations, hypothesis, and analysis to identify artifacts from long ago. To schedule, contact Jerry Taylor at 919-807-7972 or e-mail jerry.taylor@ncdcr.gov.

Postprogram Activities

These activities include several articles from *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine. If you would like to receive free issues of future magazines, form a Tar Heel Junior Historian Association club in your school. To receive a membership application, please call Jessica Pratt at 919-807-7985, e-mail thjhaclubs@ncdcr.gov, or visit the museum's website at <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/thjha/index.html>.

Activities regarding the Civil War in North Carolina:

1. **Map the Civil War in North Carolina.** Examine the effects of the Civil War in North Carolina in relation to geography. This lesson will allow groups of students to explore and map the events and battles of the war throughout the state's three geographic regions ([pages 5–25](#)).
2. **Life in Letters.** Continue reading primary sources and encourage your students to write a letter as if they are living in North Carolina during the Civil War ([pages 26–31](#)).
3. **Inflation and the Civil War.** Practice math skills while learning about inflation during the Civil War in North Carolina. This lesson allows students to compute and graph the rise of prices during this period in our state's history ([pages 32–33](#)).

Postprogram Activities: Map the Civil War in North Carolina

Students will examine events in the three regions of North Carolina (Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain) and discuss the different experiences of people in each region during the Civil War.

Time

One to two 45-minute class periods

Materials

Copies of articles (pages 9–25)

Activity sheet and map

Colored pencils

Option: Use the map at <http://www.waywelivednc.com/maps/historical/civil-war.pdf> as a guide.

Procedure

1. Divide the class into three groups and assign each group one of the regions of North Carolina: Mountain, Piedmont, or Coastal Plain.
2. Distribute copies of the activity sheet and map. Ask each group to mark the major cities and battle sites in their region on their map.
3. Distribute the articles from the fall 2000 issue of *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine according to the groups' assigned regions.
 - a. Mountain group reads "Hardship and Heartbreak: Surviving the War at Home" and "American Indians and the Civil War."
 - b. Piedmont group reads "The Salisbury Confederate Prison" and "William Woods Holden and the North Carolina Peace Movement during the Civil War."
 - c. Coastal Plain group reads "Fort Fisher" and "African Americans in Union-Occupied Eastern North Carolina during the Civil War."
4. Have the students write a brief report describing how the Civil War affected their assigned region and how the effects might relate to the region's geography. Groups should brainstorm the following ideas and include them in the report:
 - a. Strategic locations in the region during the Civil War (remember the major cities and battlefields)
 - b. Natural resources and other products of the region
 - c. Opinions of local residents about the war (before, during, and after)
5. Have each group present their regional map to the class and give a brief report of the region's Civil War experiences.

Extension Activity

Visit a local site that existed during the Civil War era (1861–1865). This site does not have to be a battlefield or one specifically related to the war. Possibilities include old homes, churches, cemeteries, and public buildings. Ask the students to imagine what the people living or working at this location might have experienced during the Civil War.

Activity Sheet: Map the Civil War in North Carolina

Directions: Use the map to mark major cities of each region in the 1860s, sites of Civil War battles, and other important Civil War sites.

Place a • for each of the major cities (population over 1,000 in 1860) in your region:

Charlotte
Fayetteville
Goldsboro
Greenville
Kinston
New Bern
Raleigh
Salisbury
Wilmington
Wilson

Place an X for each of the Civil War battle sites that took place in your region:

Averasboro
Bentonville
Fort Clark
Fort Fisher
Fort Macon
Kinston
New Bern
Plymouth
Roanoke Island
Fort Hatteras
Fort Clark

Place a * for other Civil War sites in your region:

Bennett farmhouse (now Bennett Place)
Fort Anderson (Union fort), Fort Anderson (Confederate fort)
Fort Caswell
Fort Clark
Fort Fisher
Fort Hatteras
Fort Johnston

Place a + for the Civil War Hospitals in your region:

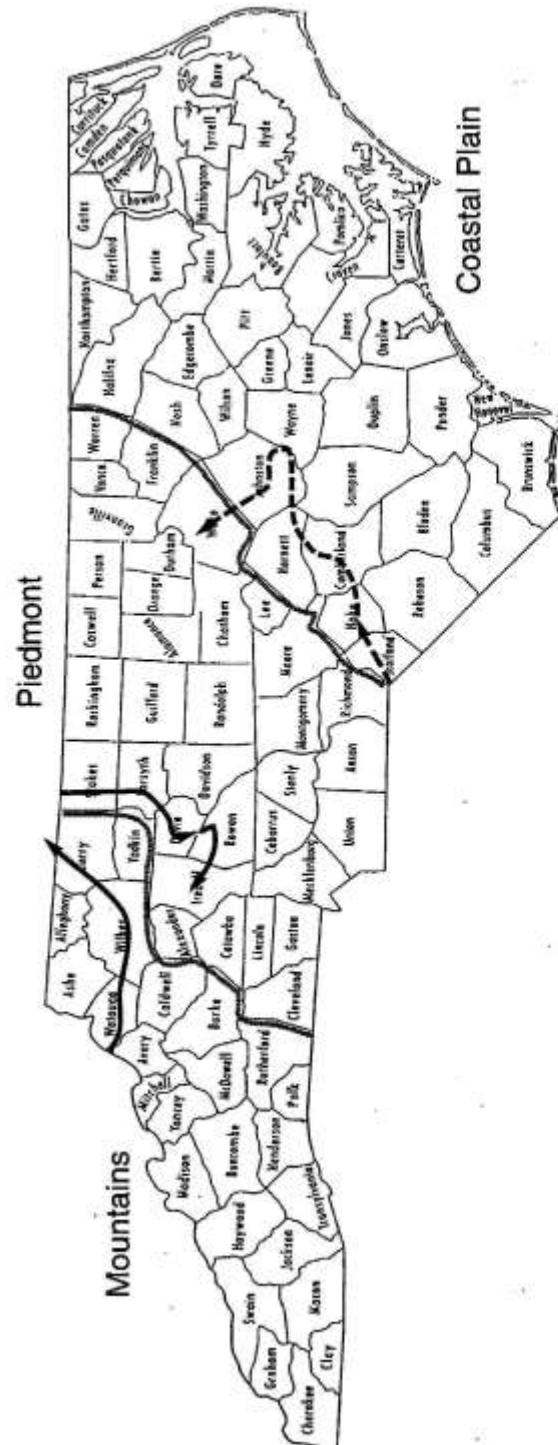
Charlotte
Fayetteville
Raleigh
Tarboro
Wilmington
Wilson

Two important routes have been marked on the map for you. Label these routes:

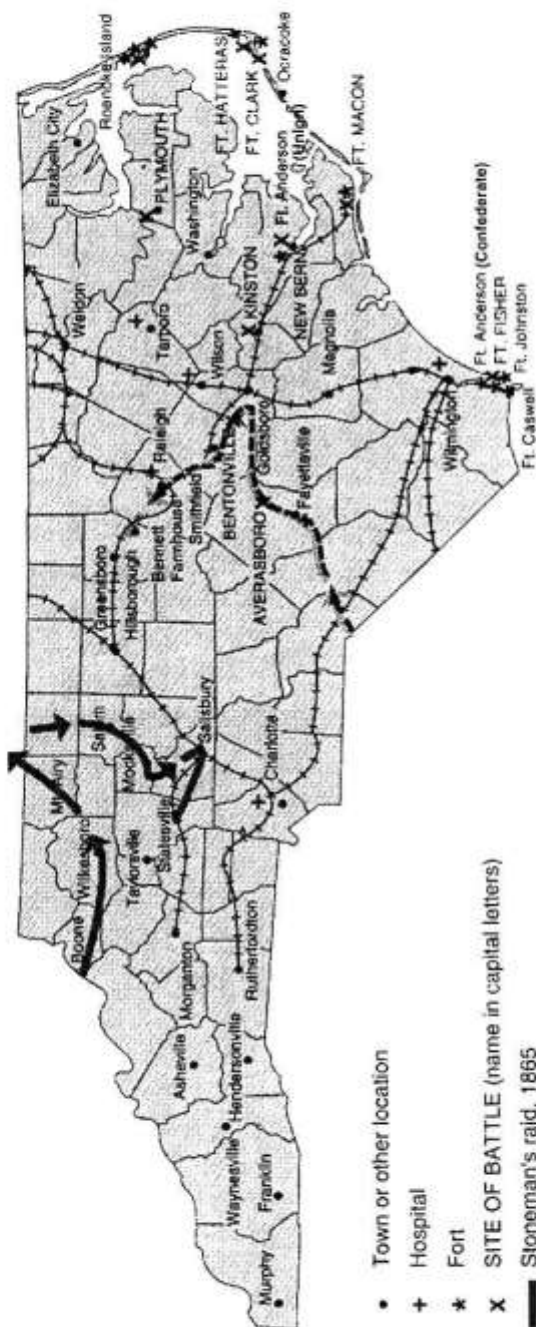
_____ solid line = Stoneman's raid, 1865

----- dashed line = Sherman's march, 1865

Map: North Carolina in the Civil War



Answer Sheet: North Carolina in the Civil War



Source: R. E. Lonsdale, ed., *North Carolina Atlas* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967).

Hardship and Heartbreak: Surviving the War at Home

by Jackson Marshall*

One of the most difficult things for families to endure during the Civil War was separation. Separation of the men in the army from their family members back home caused considerable emotional pain. Separation also caused many practical problems at home. With the men and older boys away, how were the farms to be tended? With only the elderly, women, and children left at home, who would do the heavy work on the farms? How would the bills be paid? On the plantations and wealthier farms, slaves did the work. But most North Carolina farmers had no slaves, especially those in the western Piedmont and Mountains. How could these families feed themselves during this time of separation?

When the war began in April 1861, few people believed it would last long. Southerners thought the war would end as soon as the North lost a battle. So when men volunteered to serve, they thought they would return

home soon, perhaps in time to bring in the fall harvest, or to plant the next spring's crop. Most families were willing to endure separation and hardship for a time in order to win the war quickly.

But the war did not end quickly in 1861. It did not end the next year either, or the next. The war lasted four long years and was



John Wesley Armsworthy. Courtesy of the John Wesley Armsworthy descendants.

Washington Va
June 11th 1863

Dear Wife

I sat myself to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and in very good health but am only tired. We have been marching for the last 7 days. I suppose we will soon be where the Yankees is. I just drop you these few lines that you need not be uneasy if you don't hear from me for some time for I expect we will go to Maryland if the Yankees will let up. We have a large force going on. Dear wife if I never get back to see you I hope to meet you in heaven. I can't give you any description of our march. If I can live through I would not begin the march to get to see the country but it is hard times. We are now in the Mountains. We get good waty [water] & plenty to eat but I fear our eating will not last long. I want you to write often. I may not get them, I may not. I was glad to here you got the money I sent you. nothing to write that would interest you. I hope I shall live to see you & the children for that is my hold Desire. I often think of home & the pleasures of home. I must come to a close for the present & I can tell you when I write again. You must do the best you can. I hope these few lines will find you all well. I will close for the present by saying I hope to see you soon. I have not got a letter from you in some time.

Your Husband far from home

J. W. Armsworthy.

A transcript of a letter John Wesley Armsworthy wrote to his wife. Letter courtesy of the John Wesley Armsworthy descendants.

far more terrible than anyone had imagined. More than 125,000 soldiers left their North Carolina homes. More than 40,000 never came back. Meanwhile, families suffered increasing hardships. At first, women sent clothing, blankets, and food to the men in the army. Soon they had little left to send. Later in the war, Confederate agents went from farm to farm taking livestock, wagons, and food for the army. In some areas, Union troops drove people from their homes and destroyed farms and towns.

From letters and diaries we can learn about the lives of farm families during the war. Consider, for example, the story of John and Edna Armsworthy. They were married on December 7, 1854, and lived in Yadkin County. By 1861 they had three children, named Branch, Ella, and Mathew—all under five years old. The Armsworthys lived on a 270-acre farm. They grew wheat, corn, oats, peas, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. They had a mule to plow with, two milk cows, two other cattle, fifteen hogs, and a flock of chickens. The cows provided milk and butter for the family, and the hogs were butchered

*Jackson Marshall is a research historian at the North Carolina Museum of History. He is the author of *Memories of World War I: North Carolina Doughboys on the Western Front*.

Dec 8 1863
Harewood Hospitle
Washington D.C.

Dear Wife

It is with the greatest of Pleasure that I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am in Hospitle in Washington and I am geting along frostrate [first-rate] and I also hope that I soon will be able to come home to my family. I got wounded at Rapperhanock Station but thank Goad it was not very bad wound. I got wounded in the wright arm. It was a fleas [flesh] wound and I think it is improving frostrate. Do not get uneasy abought me for I am well attended to hear. I have plenty to eat and all together I am well taken care of. That is scince I have taken Prisoner. I cannot think of nothing more at present so I will close my letter by sending my love to all and remaining your beloved husband

J. W. Armsworthy

The above is a transcript of the last letter that John Wesley Armsworthy sent home to his wife. He died in January 1864 in a Northern prison. Letter courtesy of the John Wesley Armsworthy descendants.

for pork. The family also made its own molasses. The Armsworthys were a typical North Carolina farm family. They did not own any slaves.

In fact, few people in Yadkin County owned slaves. Yadkin was settled by a large number of Quakers, a religious group who believed slavery was wrong. Although John and Edna Armsworthy were Methodists, not Quakers, they were no doubt influenced by their community. When the war began in 1861, Yadkin County sent its share of volunteers, but its citizens were not overly excited about the war. Like others, John Armsworthy did

not enlist. He stayed home with his family working on his farm. In April 1862 the Confederate government called on a military draft of all young men. So John Armsworthy left home and volunteered to serve in the army.

While John was away with the army in Virginia, his family stayed home. He and his wife wrote many letters to each other. He wrote to her about army life, and she wrote about the family at home. As time passed, life on the farm grew more difficult. Edna had to ask her Uncle Mathew to harvest the corn crop in the fall. John wrote home very worried about whether there would be enough food for his wife and children in the upcoming winter. In November Edna had to sell the cows to pay off debts and taxes.

Spring 1863 brought more troubles. Edna could not plow and plant the next corn crop. She had to borrow a milk cow from her uncle and ultimately sold her husband's colt for twenty-five dollars to help pay debts. In the summer John wrote her advising that she buy some pigs, if she could find any for sale. The money John sent from the army was nearly worthless, but Edna spent it quickly on his advice. It was better to buy something of use than to keep the money. Edna became more and more dependent on her uncle to keep food on the table.

After being wounded in battle and captured in November 1863, John Armsworthy died in a

Northern prison in January 1864. Edna

and the children were heartbroken. The years of separation had been hard enough. But now they would never see their husband and father again. Then, within months, three-year-old Mathew died. This was more than Edna could take. She and her remaining children moved to her uncle's farm in nearby Davie County. Edna never returned to her farm. She never remarried. The Civil War destroyed the lives and dreams of this North Carolina family and many others across the state.



"The Dying Soldier—The Last Letter from Home"

4

THH, Fall 2000

American Indians and the Civil War

by Jefferson Currie*

Did you know that Native Americans were involved in the Civil War? For North Carolina's American Indians, as for many other Southerners, the Civil War was a time of bravery, starvation, hiding, and uncertainty. The situation was different for each tribe. Some tribes fought for the Confederacy, and others stuck with the Union. But no matter which side they took, the Indian communities paid a price as America fought its Civil War.

The Cherokee in western North Carolina responded early to the Southern cause and formed a defense force called the Junaluska Zouaves. Many Cherokee ultimately believed, however, that this support of the Confederacy would destroy Cherokee claims to land and citizenship with the government in Washington.

William Holland Thomas, a white man adopted by the Cherokee, later formed another fighting unit and pushed for more Confederate support for enlisting the Cherokee as soldiers. Thomas took

charge of this new unit of Cherokee and white soldiers who enlisted into service in April 1862, to be stationed in Knoxville, Tennessee. The unit, called Thomas's Legion, eventually numbered 2,800 men, including about 400 Cherokee. The Indian soldiers in Thomas's Legion did battle in the rough country of the Appalachian Mountains, often raiding Union supplies and fighting guerrilla troops known as bushwhackers. The soldiers fought with courage but were often thought of as "savages" by the Northern enemies.

Back at their home in Quallatown, the Cherokee people were suffering from hunger. In 1864 William Holland Thomas said that the Cherokee people were "now in a starving condition." Some Cherokee were surviving on weeds and the bark of trees.

In May 1865 Thomas's Legion fought the last engagement of the Civil War in North Carolina, exchanging shots with Union soldiers near Waynesville. As Cherokee soldiers made their way

A postwar photograph of the Cherokee who fought in Thomas's Legion.



*Jefferson Currie is Lumbee. He is a curatorial specialist at the North Carolina Museum of History.

THH, Fall 2000

17

Mountain Region Reading

back to their homes, an epidemic of smallpox broke out in Quallatown. Despite the efforts of Thomas in getting treatment for the sick, more than one hundred Cherokee died from this disease in 1865 and 1866.

In eastern North Carolina, American Indians also suffered because of the war. Lumbee Indians in 1968 still referred to the period of the Civil War as "the starving times." While Cherokee men were fighting in the war, Lumbee men were "laying out" (hiding) in the swamps of Robeson County, leaving women to try to raise all of their food themselves.

The Confederacy had tried to force Lumbee and other eastern North Carolina Indians into labor in constructing the earthen Fort Fisher near Wilmington. Many eastern Indians had wanted to join the war early on, and some did fight, but they refused to be forced into labor. According to Lumbee woman Pert Lowry Ransom, many Lumbee opposed slavery anyway, and many would not fight against the North. Instead, they decided to "lay out in the woods to keep from going to war."

As the Civil War continued, many people in the Lumbee community increasingly supported the North. Along with Indian men, escaped Union prisoners from the Confederate prison in Florence,

what little the women could grow and harvest while the men were in hiding. When General William Tecumseh Sherman's Union army entered North Carolina in March 1865, the Lumbee helped guide his men through the southeastern part of the state, helping to end the war in Robeson County.

Across North Carolina, American Indians still tell stories about what happened to their tribal communities during the Civil War. Many stories describe the death and suffering that the war brought.

One story told by Freeman Owle, however, tells about the power of the distant past and how it remained strong during the war. The town of Franklin, in western North Carolina, is located on the site of the old Cherokee village of Nikwasi. During a war between the Cherokee and the Creek



William Holland Thomas.

in 1813 and 1814, Nikwasi was spared from Creek destruction. A mound in Nikwasi opened up suddenly as the Creek attacked the village, and thousands of little soldiers, called Nunnehi, came out to defeat the Creek in battle. During the Civil War, Northern troops descended upon the town of Franklin, ready to burn it to the ground. The Union army sent scouts in to check the town. The scouts came back telling that the town was heavily guarded. The soldiers went around Franklin, heading south and sparing the town. Some Cherokee say that the little people, the Nunnehi, protected Franklin just as they had Nikwasi long ago.

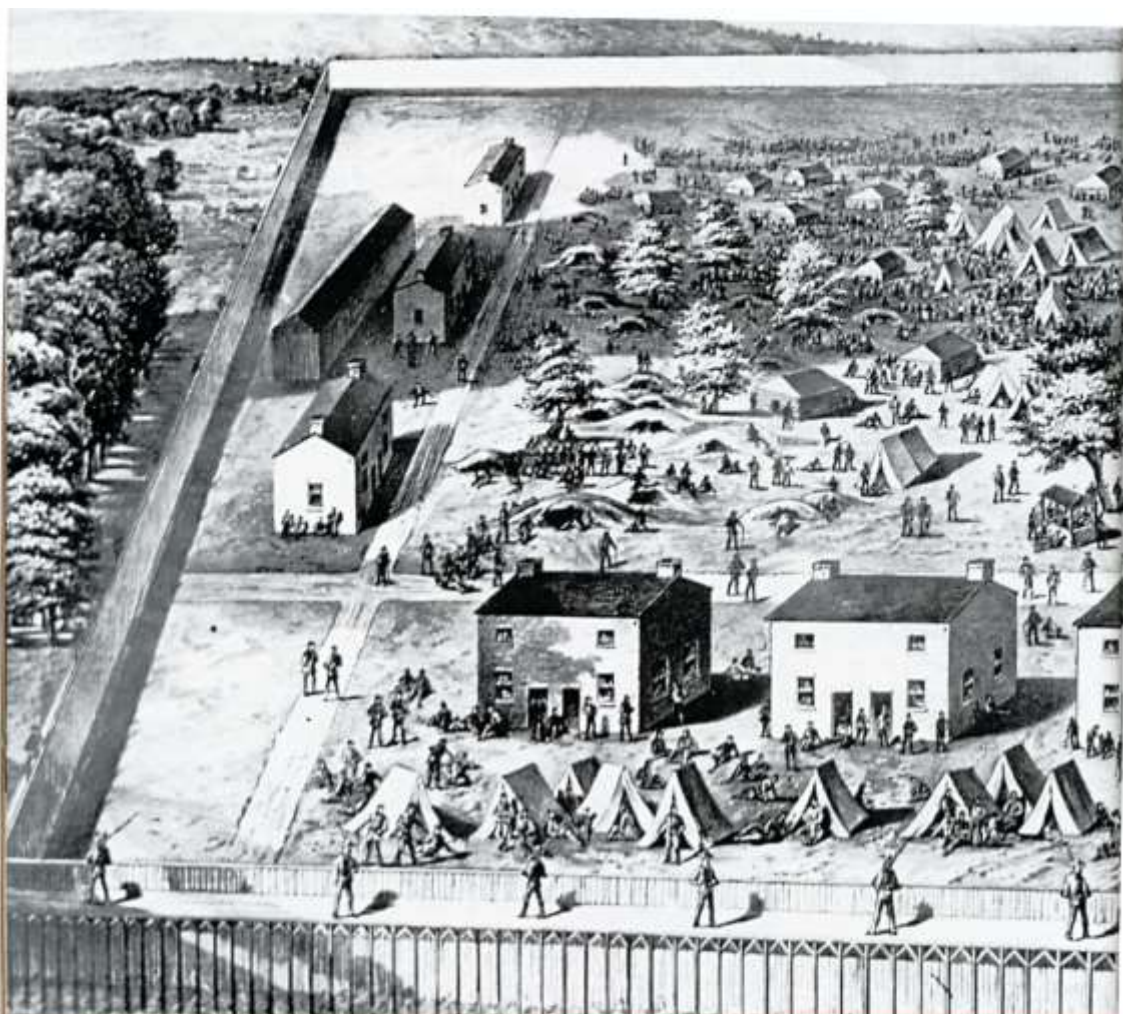


Cherokees from Thomas's Legion at a reunion in Cherokee, North Carolina, in 1901.

South Carolina, hid out in the swamps, and in some Indian homes. Indians were also accused of hiding guns and harboring Confederate deserters. Eventually, Lumbee men resorted to raiding some local white-owned farms for food to supplement



THH, Fall 2000



The Salisbury Con

by Kevin Cherry*

Six weeks after North Carolina seceded from the Union, the Confederate government asked North Carolina to provide a place to hold Northern prisoners of war.

The site selected was an empty cotton factory in Salisbury. The building, constructed of brick, stood three stories high. It had a center, monitor-like attic, and—most important—was located

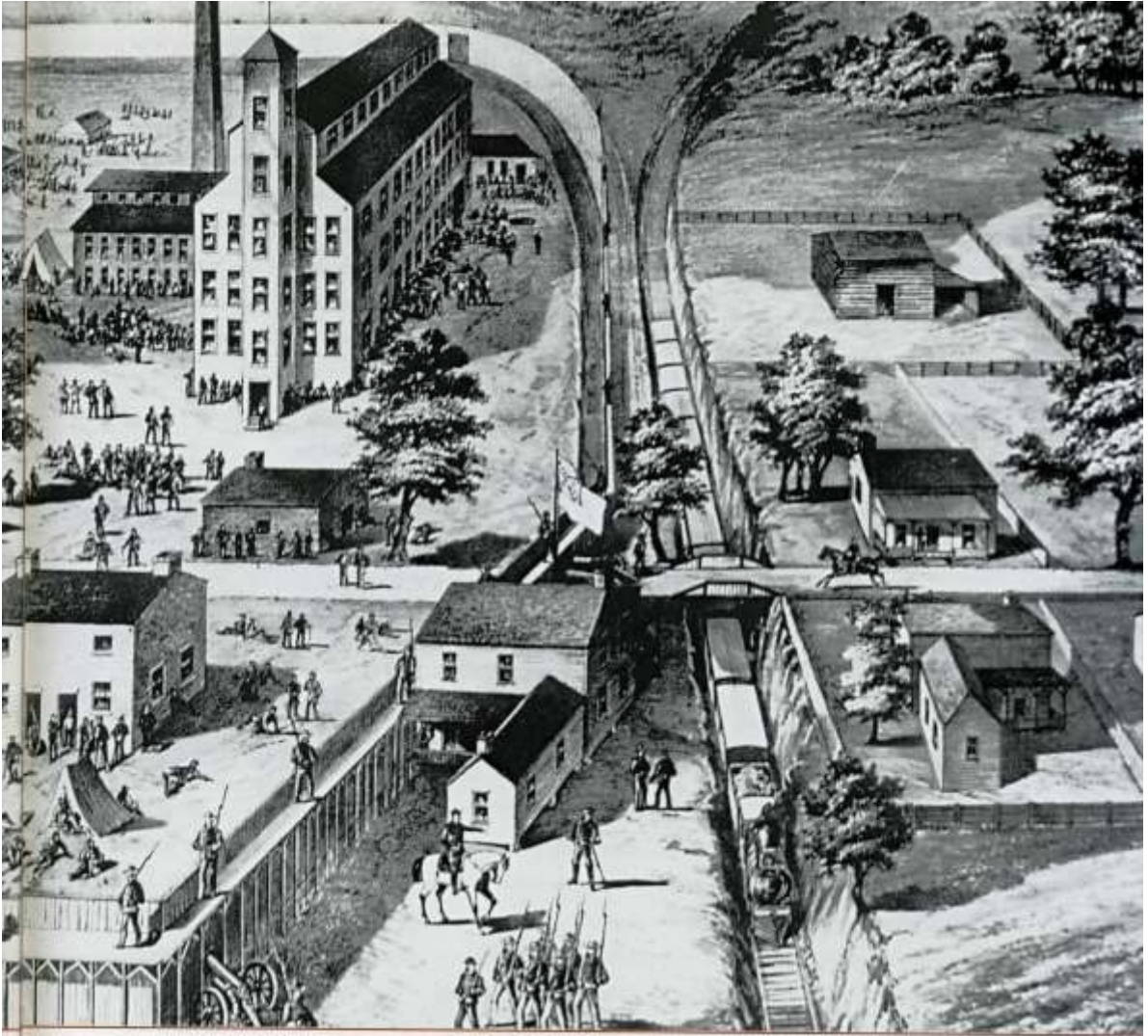
near a railroad line. The trains could easily transport prisoners in and out of town. Several smaller cottages, designed to house factory workers, and a few outbuildings surrounded

32

THH, Fall 2000

*Kevin Cherry is the consultant for special collections at the State Library of North Carolina. Before joining the State Library staff, he was local history librarian at Rowan Public Library in Salisbury.

Piedmont Region Reading



f e d e r a t e P r i s o n

the main building. Scattered about the site were large oak trees and a well.

The Confederate government quickly built a rough plank stockade (fence) around the edge

of the compound. Attached to the outside of these flimsy walls was a raised platform where guards walked. Cannon sat in two of the prison walls' corners, and a "deadline" was marked

inside the walls. The guards warned that any prisoner who crossed this line would be shot.

The first Union prisoners arrived in Salisbury on December 9, 1861. Forty-six of

TR/HH, Fall 2000

33

them had been captured at the First Battle of Manassas. They had been held at the Raleigh Fairgrounds until the prison could be completed. Joining them were seventy-three Federal sailors who were captured when their ship, the *Union*, ran aground on North Carolina's Bogue Island. These prisoners of war soon found themselves outnumbered in the prison by deserters from the Union and Confederate armies, Confederate criminals, Southern unionists (supporters of the United States), and other

Southern dissenters. Not until near the end of the war did soldiers captured in battle make up the majority at the prison.

During its first few months, the prison was a relatively comfortable place. One soldier held there called it "more endurable than any other part of rebeldom." The prison chaplain described the institution in Salisbury as almost college-like. Prisoners passed the time making trinkets to trade with local residents, playing baseball,

and even performing plays for each other. In some cases, prisoners could sign out of the prison and walk about the town.

Captured Union soldiers did not plan to stay in Salisbury long. They expected to be

mill shoulder to shoulder. In time, any place with a roof became a hospital of sorts. To get out of the rain and cold, prisoners dug holes in the ground, called bean pots because of their shape. Two or three men



This image of the Salisbury Confederate prison for Federal soldiers was drawn about 1862. This is the first drawing of a baseball game made in America.

exchanged, or traded, for captured Confederate soldiers. During the first part of the war, soldiers were regularly exchanged. This exchange system broke down following President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. Then the number of prisoners in Salisbury began to grow. The prison, designed to hold 2,500 men at a time, eventually held more than 10,000. Men packed the cotton

per hole curled together to stay warm.

Food began to run low. Southern farmers were away fighting, and much of what could be raised on the farms went to the Confederate armies. There was little left for the prisoners to eat. One captured Iowan described his food in Salisbury as "coarse corn meal, cob and all ground together, and so musty that a decent hog would not eat it." With almost

no firewood for cook fires, this prisoner had to swallow it raw.

The sanitary conditions also got out of hand. The prisoners dug latrines (toilets) near their water supply, causing the disease dysentery. The sick became sicker and more numerous. To make matters worse, the North's successful naval blockade of Southern ports caused a shortage of medicine and medical supplies in Salisbury. Prisoners began to die by the wagonload. The dead were collected daily, taken to a former blacksmith shop called the deadhouse, and then carried to burial trenches on the back of the dead wagon. There, along the stubbled rows of an old cornfield, the prisoners were buried in mass graves.

Local citizens in Salisbury petitioned the Confederacy to remove the prisoners of war from the local prison to ease their suffering, but there was nowhere else for them to go. Some citizens carried food to the prison, but as the war slogged on, they too had little to spare. One local man even loaned books from his library to the prisoners. But few people did as

much as "Old Mrs. Johnston." Sarah Johnston nursed the soldiers as best she could, even taking one, Hugh Berry, into her own home. When he passed away, she buried him in her garden.

The horrible conditions in the prison led many of the men to attempt escape. Some simply ran for the woods while on firewood or water detail (duty). One resourceful crew pricked their skins with hot pins, pretending to have the highly feared and contagious disease smallpox, which caused them to be taken from the prison. Most, however, dug tunnels. Using spoons, sharp sticks, pocketknives, and their bare hands, the soldiers riddled the ground beneath the prison with shoulder-wide escape routes. The citizens of Salisbury were still uncovering these tunnels as late as the 1960s. Whether by tunnel or by sudden dash, a steady trickle of prisoners did manage to escape. Local citizens and guards recaptured most of them and returned them to the prison.

General George Stoneman, a Union cavalry officer, attempted to liberate the prisoners held in

Salisbury on April 12, 1865. When his men finally rode into town, he found the prison empty. The prisoners had been shipped away for exchange before Stoneman's raid. The general ordered the burning of the prison, along with every other Confederate government installation in Salisbury. The old cotton mill and the shaky walls that surrounded it darkened the sky with their smoke.

After the war, a United States investigator estimated that the dead buried in the Salisbury Confederate Prison trenches numbered more than 11,000. More in-depth research now seems to indicate that the mass graves hold closer to four thousand or five thousand men. Even so, the National Cemetery in Salisbury, the site of the prison trenches, holds more unidentified Union soldiers than any other burial site in the nation. ❀



William Woods Holden and the North Carolina Peace Movement during the Civil War

by Dr. William C. Harris*

By the summer of 1863 the Civil War was taking a terrible toll on North Carolina troops in the field and the people at home. In the bloody three-day battle at Gettysburg in July 1863, the Confederate invasion of the North was defeated. After this battle, William Woods Holden, the editor of the Raleigh newspaper the *North Carolina Standard*, called for meetings to demand peace negotiations.

Holden, who had long been a controversial editor in the state, denied accusations that he sought to abandon the Confederate cause. Instead, he claimed that the South must negotiate an "honorable" peace soon in order to prevent ruin. The Northern people, Holden said, were anxious for peace. He felt that the North would be willing to accept Southern independence and the continuation of slavery. He was

wrong if he really believed that President Abraham Lincoln would accept these terms.

The popular governor, Zebulon B. Vance, also knew that Lincoln would never agree to terms that did not include the restoration of the Union and the liberation of the slaves. Still, Holden's call for peace rallies resulted in a bitter debate throughout North Carolina, the only state where this occurred. The issue divided North Carolinians to a greater extent than perhaps ever before or since.

Vance privately expressed the belief that Holden and the other leaders of the peace movement plotted treason by working to reunite the Union. Holden and Vance had formerly been allies. Holden had helped Vance win election as governor in 1862 on the Conservative Party ticket to protect North Carolina's rights. Catherine Anne Edmondston, a

loyal Confederate in a planter family, characterized Holden as "that fly on the chariot wheel" who had brought "dishonor and treason" to his name. However, only a handful of the nearly one hundred peace rallies called for reunion with the North.

When tensions mounted during the late summer of 1863, and violence threatened, Vance secured Holden's agreement to call off the peace rallies. Tension, however, remained high after Georgia troops, marching through Raleigh, sacked the *Standard* office and threatened Holden's life. At Governor Vance's insistence, President Jefferson Davis took steps to prevent more incidents of this kind. He ordered Confederate troops to bypass Raleigh in the future.

By early 1864 a brutal season of military battles and continued suffering on the North Carolina home front seemed certain. As a



THQI, Fall 2000

*Dr. William C. Harris is a professor of history at North Carolina State University. His book *William Woods Holden: Firebrand of North Carolina Politics* won the Mayflower Cup award for nonfiction.

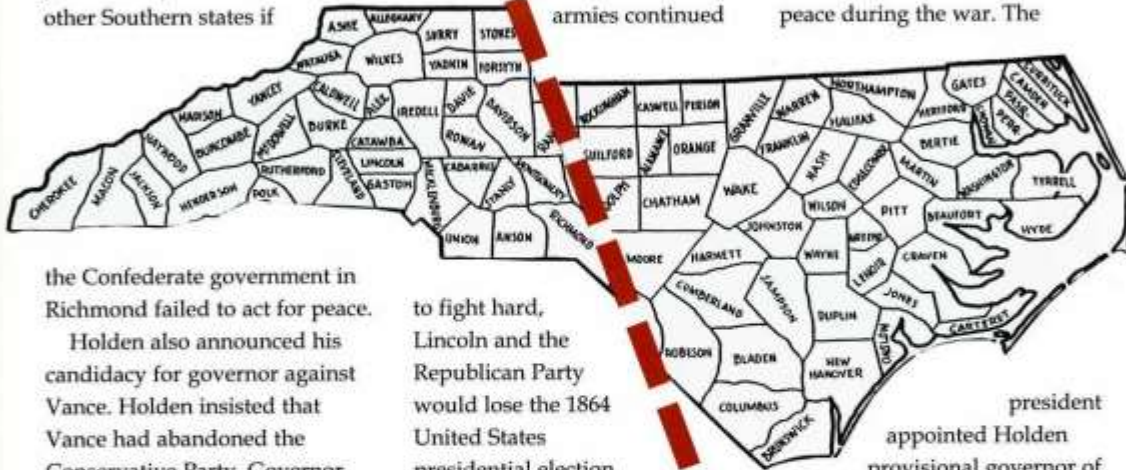
result, Holden renewed his peace efforts, but with a different tactic. He called for an elected state convention, consisting of well-known men, to protect the state from all threats to its rights and, more importantly, to begin peace talks. Holden said that these negotiations with the Lincoln government would take place in conjunction with other Southern states if

Furthermore, when the governor's election took place in August 1864, the war had reached a stalemate, and war-weariness afflicted the North.

Governor Vance and most North Carolinians, including the soldiers in Robert E. Lee's army, believed that if the Confederate armies continued

Confederate armies before peace would come. Then there would be no negotiations regarding terms as Holden had recommended earlier.

After the war, President Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln upon his assassination on April 15, 1865, recognized Holden's contribution to the cause of peace during the war. The



the Confederate government in Richmond failed to act for peace.

Holden also announced his candidacy for governor against Vance. Holden insisted that Vance had abandoned the Conservative Party. Governor Vance was angry with Holden and was now ready to attack him publicly. Vance wrote to Confederate senator William A. Graham of Orange County, "I will see the Conservative party blown into a thousand atoms and Holden and his understrappers in hell . . . before I will consent to a course which I think would bring dishonor and ruin upon both the State and Confederacy."

In becoming a candidate for governor, Holden did not count on the popularity of Vance or his own controversial reputation.

to fight hard, Lincoln and the Republican Party would lose the 1864 United States presidential election. Then the victorious Democrats would agree to a cease-fire. Thus, Confederate independence would be achieved. As a result, Holden, running on the state convention platform, suffered a sound defeat in August.

Of course, Vance and his supporters were wrong about the outcome of the United States presidential election. Lincoln won a solid victory over the Democratic Party. Holden and his fellow North Carolinians now had to await the final defeat and surrender of the

president appointed Holden provisional governor of North Carolina. Later, when the Republican Party was organized in the state, Holden and many of his wartime followers joined it. In 1868 Holden was elected governor on a Republican platform dedicated to the protection of African American rights. Because of his support for black political equality and his efforts to suppress the Ku Klux Klan, Holden was impeached and removed from office in 1871. He was the first governor in United States history to suffer this fate. 🌸



No. 1—Mound Battery or Battery Lamb, No. 2—Fort Fisher, No. 3—Fort Puchanan, No. 4—Camp Union Troops, No. 5—Cape Fear River, No. 6—Gen. Terry's Headquarters, No. 7—Double Whirligig Battery, No. 8—Fleet Gunboats protecting Union entrenchments, No. 9—Flagship *Monitor*, No. 10—Wilmington, N. C. No. 11—Torpedoes.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF FORT FISHER, N. C., WITH THE MOUND BATTERY, FORT PUCHANAN AND A PART OF THE U. S. FLEET. —From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper

An overview of Fort Fisher.

FORT FISHER

by Ray Flowers*

Within days of the firing on Fort Sumter, United States president Abraham Lincoln ordered a naval blockade of all Southern ports. To compete with the industrial might of the North, the agricultural South was forced to look toward Europe for supplies to feed and fuel the Confederate war machine. The flow of foreign aid from across the sea would determine the tide of battle on

land. Throughout the war, the fortunes of the Confederacy would be moored, or tied, to the docks of Southern harbors.

Even before North Carolina seceded, orders were given "to commence operations on Federal Point, and to locate and construct sand batteries there so as to command the entrance of the inlet." By September 1861, the Confederate batteries (gun pits) guarding New Inlet would be officially named Fort Fisher.

Located twenty miles south of Wilmington, where the east bank of the Cape Fear River gave way to the Atlantic Ocean, it would grow to be the largest and strongest earthwork fort in the world.

By the summer of 1862, Fort Fisher had had several previous commanders, but none so



Colonel William Lamb.

capable as Colonel William Lamb. On July 4, 1862, he received an order to proceed to Fort Fisher and take command. Lamb recalled: "I went immediately and assumed command and before sunset of that day, had thoroughly inspected the works. I determined at once to build a work of such magnitude that it could withstand the heaviest fire of any guns in the American navy. Shortly after obtaining permission, I commenced the new Fort Fisher, and from that time, the summer of 1862, until the morning of December 24, 1864, I never ceased to work."

With the fort's troops, supplemented by the labor of five hundred slaves, there were at times as many as a thousand men at work on the fort, sometimes working seven days a week. One observer described the task: "These forts made of sand were constructed by these slaves with wheelbarrows pushed and pulled on gangways. The turf was transported from the marshes in the same way. It was very interesting to see two or three hundred wheelbarrows rolling in unison from the points of loading to those of dumping returning in a circle and passing the loaders who shovel in hand threw sand in the barrows as they passed without stopping."



African American slaves helped to build Southern forts.

The design of the fort was unusual. There were only two walls, a land face and a sea face. It looked like the number 7 or an upside-down L. The land face extended across Federal Point

mounds, thirty-two feet high and forty-three feet thick, sodded with marsh grass to hold them intact. Gun pits were constructed between the mounds, which mounted twenty heavy guns.

Within each mound was a bombproof, or underground room. Passageways connected many of these underground rooms.

In front of the land face, all vegetation was removed for a half mile to allow a clear field of fire. A nine-foot palisade fence of sharpened timbers was erected just in front of the land face. The palisade was zigzagged to allow the defenders to enfilade, or crossfire, against attackers. Notches were cut in



The inside of an underground bombproof at Fort Fisher. It was used as a hospital for wounded Southerners.

for over a third of a mile, from river to ocean. A huge earthen wall, it consisted of sixteen

the fence for muskets. Five to six hundred yards in front of the palisade lay a system of land mines.

The corner of the fort, where the land and sea faces met, was a huge work called the Northeast Bastion. Here the walls turned at a ninety-degree angle and

By 1863 Wilmington was the last major seaport in the Confederacy open to the outside world. Blockade-runners steamed swiftly from the neutral provinces of the Bahamas and Bermuda, extending the lifeline that lifted Southerners' sinking spirits. The ships brought much-

exchange, blockade-runners took on tobacco, naval stores, and cotton. The proximity (closeness) of these islands, just a two- to three-day trip, made Wilmington the ideal port of call.

At Wilmington, luxury items were auctioned. The military supplies were loaded onto the rickety trains of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. The 250-mile supply route led to Petersburg, Virginia, where the materiel (equipment) was dispensed to General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Late in the war, General Lee himself prophetically stated that if Wilmington fell, he could no longer sustain his army.

In May 1864 a young black man named Charles Wesley, who claimed to be Colonel Lamb's servant, escaped to the Federal blockading fleet. He gave valuable and accurate information confirming what the



Workers load cotton in Wilmington. The cargo is bound for Nassau, in the Bahamas.

descended south for over a mile in the direction of New Inlet. There were twenty-four heavy guns on the sea face.

At the end of the line overlooking the inlet was Mound Battery. It was an engineering marvel for the day, standing some sixty feet high. It took six months to build, even with the assistance of two steam-operated railways supplementing the labor of the men. Completed, it mounted two guns that guarded New Inlet. It was also the primary signal station for communicating with blockade-runners.

needed European guns, cannon, ammunition, cloth, and medicines, as well as highly coveted luxury items. In



Federal gunboats chase a blockade-runner.



Federal ships attack Fort Fisher.

Federals had already suspected: Fort Fisher was undermanned and ripe for the taking.

On December 24, 1864, the largest fleet assembled by the United States Navy up to that time anchored off Fort Fisher. In an attempt to damage the fort, the Union fleet harmlessly detonated a powder boat containing more than a hundred tons of gunpowder. It then shelled the fort severely but inconclusively. Frustrated, the Federals sailed away, leaving the Confederates in possession of the fort, a belated Christmas gift.

Three weeks later, on Friday, January 13, 1865, the Union armada (fleet of ships) returned, more determined than ever. Approximately fifty-eight warships, mounting more than six hundred cannon, unleashed a three-day barrage, throwing about 20,000 projectiles into the

besieged fort. On Sunday, January 15, thousands of soldiers, sailors, and marines attacked the land-face defenders. After a bloody six-hour contest, the small garrison was


Federals eventually received the Medal of Honor. Colonel Lamb was severely wounded, captured, and taken north. Five weeks later, Wilmington fell. Less than two months later,



The ruins of Fort Fisher.

overwhelmed and the fort captured. The Cape Fear River was closed to blockade-running.

The two sides combined had almost two thousand killed or wounded men. Nearly seventy

General Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, and the war was all but over. 

TIME, Fall 2000

31

Coastal Plain Region Reading

African Americans in Union-Occupied Eastern North Carolina during the Civil War

by RaeLana Poteat*

By mid-1862, less than a year after North Carolina left the Union, portions of the state were again under Federal control. The Union army first regained a foothold in the state by recapturing Hatteras Island in August 1861 and Roanoke Island in February 1862. It then launched a campaign to gain control of areas on the mainland. On March 14, 1862, the army captured

The slaves came into Union-occupied areas to gain their freedom. They also wanted to search for family members whom they had been separated from during slavery, and to find ways to support themselves and build new lives, free of slavery. They came for educational opportunities and religious freedom. Many schools that taught both children and adults sprang up behind Union lines.



Fugitive slaves coming into Union lines at New Bern, North Carolina. Image from *Harpers Weekly*, February 21, 1863.

the city of New Bern. By the end of the spring of 1862, Union troops occupied much of eastern North Carolina north of the Cape Fear River.

North Carolina was thus a state divided between the control of two armies. Partial Union occupation affected all the citizens of the state in one way or another, but it was particularly important to African American slaves who lived near the areas of occupation. As news of the Union army's advance spread, slaves in nearby Confederate-held territory began running away to cross army lines.

And African Americans quickly founded several new churches in occupied territory.

Before the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, slaves who crossed Union lines were technically not free. Federal officers, however, followed a policy of treating African American refugees as "contraband of war." This meant that slaves who came into army camps or Union-occupied territory became known as "contrabands" and could live under the army's protection without fear of being returned to their enslavers.

*RaeLana Poteat is an assistant curator at the North Carolina Museum of History.



The Civil War offered African Americans an opportunity to earn a living free of slavery. Many blacks worked in several occupations for the Union army: (top left) as scouts and spies; (top right) as teamsters and laundresses; and (left) chopping wood and cooking for the Union hospitals.

In the early spring of 1862, a Union official estimated that there were about 10,000 contrabands in occupied North Carolina. Of these, 7,500 were near New Bern; 1,000 were on Roanoke Island; and 1,500 were in the areas of Washington, Hatteras, and Beaufort. Most of these refugees came to the army with few possessions, needing food and shelter.

As the number of former slaves seeking refuge with the army continued to grow, Horace James, the superintendent of Negro affairs in Federal-occupied North Carolina, began establishing contraband camps where people who had left their homes could be temporarily housed. The largest camp was the Trent River settlement, across the Trent River from New Bern. There were also camps at Roanoke Island, Washington, and Beaufort.

The Union army employed many of the refugees in various occupations. After the Emancipation Proclamation, the army also recruited contrabands, or freedmen, as they came to be known, from occupied areas of the state. These men served in the four North Carolina African American Union

regiments—the Thirty-fifth United States Colored Infantry, the Thirty-sixth United States Colored Infantry, the Thirty-seventh United States Colored Infantry, and the Fourteenth United States Colored Heavy Artillery. Freedmen who enlisted knew that they might be killed or wounded in battle like other soldiers. But they also knew that if they were captured, they could be returned to slavery or executed by Confederate forces.

Many male freedmen who did not join the Union army served the Federal forces in other ways. A select few were army scouts who risked their lives by traveling into Confederate territory to spy on troop movements and positions. Union official Vincent Colyer wrote of them, "Upwards of fifty volunteers of the best and most courageous, were kept constantly employed on the perilous but important duty of spies, scouts, and guides. In this work they were invaluable and almost indispensable. They frequently went from thirty to three hundred miles within the enemy lines; visiting his principal camps and most important posts, and bringing us back important and reliable information. They visited within the rebel lines Kingston [now Kinston], Goldsboro, Trenton, Onslow, Swansboro, Tarboro, and points on the Roanoke River: often on these errands barely escaping with their lives. They were pursued on several occasions by bloodhounds; two or three of them were taken prisoners; one of

these was known to have been shot, and the fate of the others was not ascertained."

Many other freedmen worked for the army by building fortifications and bridges. Others chopped wood, drove wagons, or loaded and unloaded cargo. Colyer reported that while he was in charge of the freedmen, they built "three first-class earth-work forts" in New Bern, in Washington, and on Roanoke Island. Freedmen also constructed a large railroad bridge across the Trent River at New Bern, as well as several smaller bridges across creeks in the area. Many women who came into occupied areas supported the army by working as cooks and laundresses.

Most freedmen appear to have respected and liked the Federal officials in charge of the camps. Freedmen even renamed the Trent River settlement James City, after Horace James. There is some evidence, however, that these officials did not always treat freedmen fairly. In 1865 a group of freedmen who had enlisted with the Thirty-sixth United States Colored Infantry wrote a letter to their general complaining that their families in the Roanoke Island camp were not being taken care of by the man in charge of distributing supplies.

The soldiers complained that "When we were enlisted in the service we were prommised that our wives and family's should receive rations from government. The rations for our wives and family's have been (and are now cut down) to one half the regular ration. Consequently three or four days out of every ten days, thee have nothing to eat. at the same time our ration's



Huts for African Americans at the Trent River settlement.

are stolen from the ration house by Mr. Streeter the Ass[sistan]t Sup[erintenden]t at the Island (and others) and sold while our family's are suffering for some thing to eat."

As the war drew to a close, the Freedmen's Bureau, which was established by the Federal government in March 1865, took over the army's task of caring for and educating former slaves. By this point, many freedmen were ready to move away from the camps and start new lives on their own.

Little remains today in the wooded area where the Roanoke Island camp once stood. The Trent River/James City settlement, however, did live on for many years as an African American community, and a district known as James City still exists near New Bern, slightly to the south of the original camp.

Postprogram Activities: Life in Letters

In this program we have examined several primary sources created at the time of the Civil War. The following article from the spring 1987 issue of *Tar Heel Junior Historian* magazine, titled "I Want to Come Home So Bad," includes some moving letters written by John and Martha Futch during the war. As the only available means of communication, letter writing was essential to the morale of those serving in the armed forces and to families waiting at home.

After reading the article, have your students compose a letter using one of the following prompts:

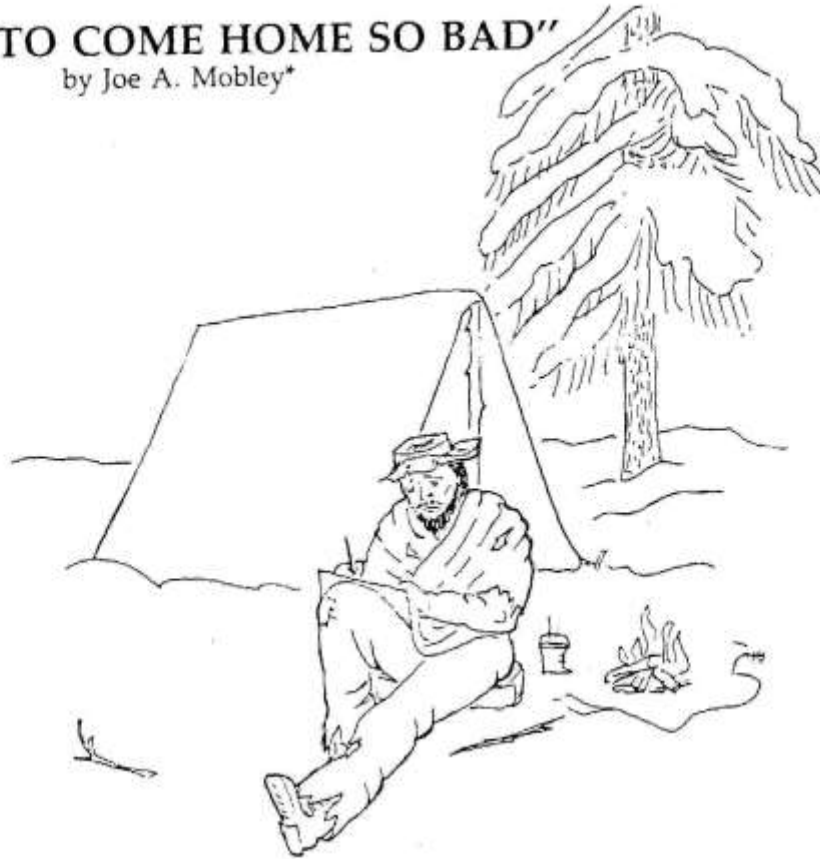
1. Imagine that you are a soldier in the Civil War. Write a letter to your best friend at home. Describe some of the items you carry with you. Write about your daily life, including where you are now, what you eat, and whether you are in camp or in battle.
2. Imagine that you are a 12-year-old boy or girl living on a farm in North Carolina during the Civil War. Write a letter to your father or older brother in the Confederate army. What time of year is it? What is happening at the farm? What are you eating and doing? What news do you have about supplies or the war effort?
3. Imagine that you are a young mother living on a farm in North Carolina during the Civil War. Write a letter to your husband serving in the army. What news do you decide to share with him? What is happening at the farm? How are your children at home and other family members? What questions do you have for him?

Extension Activity

1. Create your own prompt based on other people's lives in North Carolina during the Civil War. For example, imagine that you are a member of a Quaker family, or an escaped slave heading to northeastern North Carolina (which was under the control of Federal troops), or a Cherokee living in the Mountains. What is your perspective on the conflict and the changes it is bringing to your life?

"I WANT TO COME HOME SO BAD"

by Joe A. Mobley*



In many ways the story of John Futch is typical of the thousands of men who endured soldiers' hardships during the Civil War. Married, with children, Futch was a New Hanover County farmer of moderate means. He owned three slaves. He owned 635 acres of land. Futch grew corn and a few truck crops, had 20 milk cows, 5 other cattle, 30 swine, 2 working oxen, and farm equipment that was valued at only \$50.00. Futch belonged to the yeoman class that composed the largest segment of society in the antebellum South. Men from this class formed the core of the Confederate army.

North Carolina joined the Confederacy and entered the Civil War in May, 1861. In February, 1862, Futch left his farm and traveled to Harnett County, where he enlisted as a private in Company K, Third North Carolina Regiment. He was then twenty-six years old. Futch's brother Charley was already a member of that infantry unit. Futch accompanied the Third Regiment, part of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, to the vicinity of Richmond, Virginia. The regiment soon returned

to North Carolina to defend Goldsboro against an expected attack by Union troops. Futch became ill during this period and received a furlough to return to New Hanover County. His regiment departed for Virginia without him and fought in the Battle of Antietam, Maryland, in September, 1862, and in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in December, 1862. Private John Futch rejoined his company in time to fight in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May, 1863.

After its victory at Chancellorsville, the Army of Northern Virginia invaded the North. The Confederates engaged in deadly combat with the northern army at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in July, 1863. The Union victory at that battle broke both the Confederate war effort and the will of John Futch. The South's defeat at Gettysburg, coupled with the fall of Vicksburg and the loss of the Mississippi River, spelled doom for the Confederacy. For Futch the disaster in Pennsylvania had a more personal impact. During the severe fighting his regiment virtually was destroyed. Worse

*Editor, *North Carolina Historical Review*. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh

yet, Futch's brother Charley was wounded and died in his arms.

After Gettysburg the Army of Northern Virginia retreated south. Devastated by Charley's death and weakened in body and spirit by fighting and hardship, John Futch wrote to his wife with increasing despair and loneliness. Eventually, in August, 1863, he deserted from camp in Virginia and headed home.

The following letters between John Futch and his wife Martha provide insight into the complex factors that caused over 23,000 North Carolinians to desert the war effort. Worries about their families, homesickness, war weariness, the hardships of camp life, the loss of family and friends, and many other factors all affected army morale. The Futch letters reveal much about the tragedy of the war on both the battlefield and the home front.

[Futch Letters, State Archives, Raleigh]

Camp near Buckners Neck Virginia Feb 13th 1863

Dear Martha, I write you a few lines informing you that I Received your very kind letter Yesterday evening and was very glad indeed to hear from You and to hear that you were well. . . my health is no better I have been sick all the time Since I have been in Camp and I have not been well enough to do any duty Since I have been here.

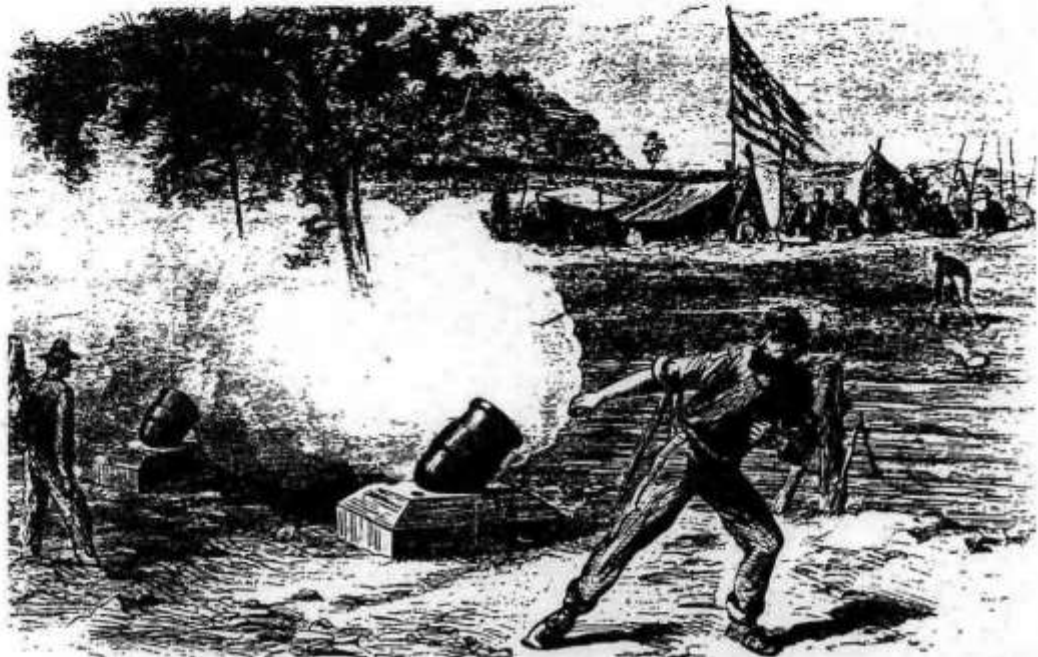
Captain Armstrong . . . told me when he left that when he came back to Camp that he would Send me before the Board of Doctors to be examined and to See if they would not give me a discharge. I long to See the time come for my health is So bad and it is So cold here that I am perfectly miserable and I am doing my Country no good and Myself a great harm. dear Martha I have no news of any importance to write you at this time. we expect to have a fight here as soon as the weather gets dry enough for the Yankees to haul their Artillery across the River We are well prepared to meet them and our men will be Certain of another Victory whenever the Battle is fought. . . Dear Martha I will Send you Some money as soon as I can draw some unless I get a discharge. if I get one I am in hope that I will have the pleasure of bringing it to you. I expect we will draw money sometime in March. When Captain Armstrong comes back I will try to make arrangements for you to draw Something from the County. . . I want you to write to me as soon as you can after you get this letter So farewell for this time. I Remain your affectionate Husband.

John Futch to Martha Futch

february the 19 1863

dear husban

after my love and best respects I will inform you that I am well execeptin cold and I hope that these fue lines may reche and find you in joyen the good blesings of helth. dear husban I have not receved a letter from you sence you left. I went to see your captin and he sead that you was not well and I am sorrow to hir it. the captin said that when he come back . . . and you wont able for fecal [field] duty that he would transfur you and send you to the





The men of the Third North Carolina Regiment held snowball fights to amuse themselves while in camp.

hospitable fore a nus [nurse] and then if you want [weren't] able . . . send you home. and I asked the captin a bout comen back with him to see you and he sees [says] that I could come with him but tha was no fiteen plase hear for me . . . when the captin comes back I will send you too pear of gloves. and dear husban I went to [Benansars] to fede [feed] me and he sead that he would not . . . and also I went to [H]and and he sead that he could not with out I leved in his destrect and then he would. father is goin to wil[m]ington and he said that he would tri fore me thear

and dear husban I shal come to see you if you aint back by april fore I want to see you veary bad fore I have aplenty of nuas [news] to tell you and mother and famly gives thear love to you and seas that tha want to see you. . . I remain your effecttionly wife tell deth. Marthy Futch to Mr John Futch

Febuary 28th. 1863
Camp Near port royale

Dear Wife I take the pleasure of riting you a few Lines to inform you of my health. . . I am no Beter than I was at home But thang god I am a Live. . . we hav a Bad time here it is Reaining or snowing every day or too. Charley is well and is looking as well as ever. . . you canot tell how Bad I want to see you god grant I may see you Before long But god knows When it will Be. . . I have not drawned no money yet But I expect to draw the first of next month and I will sind you some as soon as I get it. . . no tongue

can tell how Bad I want to see you But if I never See you Remember I trew as a man can To you. I have not had a good nightes Sleep in a fortunite and it is all for the Boyes hav Bin enjoying them Selves By Snow Baling one another But I could not pertake with them. We have a man Brout threw our Camps every day With the drum . . . and his head Shaved for Coward dise this is to Be done for 30 dayes I dont want this to Be my case. the old 3rd [Regiment] whiped a Va. [Regiment] fear [fire] cracking with Snow Bales they Put one of the va. eyes out entirely. Dear Wife I must Come to a Close By Saying I had rather See you thane to rite To you may god Blessing rest With you. good By till I hear from you.

husban John futch To Marthey Futch

Camp near the United States for Va
May the 9th 1863
My, Dear, Wife

This leaves me well and I hope it may find you the same. I have been through the battles and God has brought me out safte and I feel more than thankfull to think that while others have been cut down I was one who came out safte but I feel very much worried after taking such heavy marches and being so much fatigued. We had a hard battle on Satture day but nothing to compare with that of Sundy [Chancellorsville]. that was the day we lost so maney of our friends and so maney were wounded. I thought that every man would be kiled and there would not be enough to tell the tale of the rest.



I threw away my knapsack on the battle field and every thing I had and was glad to get off without any thing. I thought I had seen you for the last time but God brought me through safe and I feel very thankful to him for his kindness towards me.... I hope we will not have to fight another battle this year and if we do I hope I will not have the pleasure of being in it again.... Charley came out safe also both of the Ramsey boys. We have run the Yankees over the river again.... I never saw the like of the dead men in my life.... Give my best love to all the family and a good portion to your self. I remain as ever your devoted husband

John Futch

Camp near bunker hill
July the 19th, 63

Dear wife I take the pleasure of writing you a few lines which will inform you that I am not well at this time. I have a bad cold and I am wearied out from marching but we are stopped at this time but we don't know how long.... we marched through PA [Pennsylvania] and we had a hard fight there [Gettysburg]. we lost all of our boys nearly there. Charley got killed and he suffered a great deal from his wound he lived a night and a day after he was wounded. we had hard times there but we got a nough to eat there but we don't now. as to my self I get a nough for I don't want nothing to eat hardly for I am all most sick all the time and half crazy. I never wanted to come home so bad in my life but it is so that I can't come at this time but if we come down south I will try to come anyway for I want to come home so bad that I am home sick. I want you to keep Charley's pistol and if I ever get back I will keep it.... I hope that we will live to come home without a wound for I have seen so many wounded and died. I staid with Charley until he died. he never spoke after he was wounded until he died. I never was hurt so in my life I had rather that it would be in my self. as my opportunity is bad of writing I will close so nothing more only I still remain your kind and abediant husband

John Futch

At the Battle of Chancellorsville in May, 1863, North Carolina lost more than 3,000 men killed or wounded.

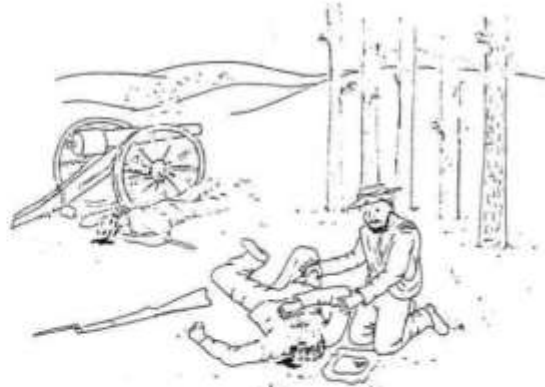
August the 2 1863

Camp Near Ornage corte house va

Dear wife I take the plesher of riting you a few lines to in forme you that I am well at present hopen thes few lines May reach and find you well.... I havent got Mutch to rite at present only it is harde times hear with us and Mity hot.... I haven sean no plesher since charley got kild. he got wonded the 2 [July] and died the 3. he was shot in the head and sufered Mity Bad before he died. I toted him off of the feald and stade with him tel he died. I am at a grate lost sence I lost charley tel I am all Most crasey but I hope that I will get a long with it the [best] I can.... I want to sea you the worse I ever did in My life.... I am a comin home the first chance I can get I think that this war will end before long for I think that the yankes will whip us before long. charley never spoke after he got wonded and he wanted to go home Mity bad before he died—he was kild at gettysburg PV pore feler he got kild a long wase from home. I was sary that I codent get a cofen to bearey [bury] him but I beared him the best I cod. it was somthing that I never expected to haft to do....

Nothing More at present only i remain your lonley husban tel Dethe.

John Futch to wife Marth Futch



John Futch's brother Charley received a mortal wound during the fie fighting at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 2, 1863.

[Editor's Note: John Futch was shot for desertion by Confederate authorities on September 5, 1863.]



Like Charley Futch, many soldiers killed in battle were buried hastily in makeshift graves. A supply wagon is in the background.

Postprogram Activities: Inflation on the Civil War Home Front

Background

The Civil War caused food shortages throughout North Carolina and many other states. With many farmers fighting in the war, fewer people were producing food. Those who did raise crops had to give a portion to Confederate agents for use in the war, further reducing supplies for those on the home front. The demand for this lower supply raised prices quickly and dramatically. Protests and bread riots over the lack of food and high prices occurred in some cities.

Procedure

Using the chart on the next page and your math skills, learn how food prices increased, or were inflated, during the Civil War years in North Carolina. To determine how much an item increased in price, divide the 1865 price by the 1862 price. For example:

Bacon

$\$7.50$ (price in 1865) divided by $\$0.33$ (price in 1862) = 22.7

The price of bacon increased 22.7 times between 1862 and 1865.

1. Determine the rates of inflation for the foods listed in the chart.
2. Which food item listed experienced the greatest rate of inflation between 1862 and 1865?
3. Why did the prices of some foods increase more than others?

Raleigh Food Prices, 1862–1865				
	1862	1863	1864	1865
Bacon (1 pound)	\$0.33	\$1.00	\$5.50	\$7.50
Beef (lb.)	.12	.50	2.50	3.00
Pork (lb.)	NA	1.60	4.00	5.50
Sugar (lb.)	.75	1.00	12.00	30.00
Corn (bushel)	1.10	5.50	20.00	30.00
Meal (bu.)	1.25	5.50	20.00	30.00
Potatoes (bu.)	1.00	4.00	7.00	30.00
Yams (bu.)	1.50	5.00	6.00	35.00
Wheat (bu.)	3.00	8.00	25.00	50.00
Flour (barrel)	18.00	35.00	125.00	500.00

—From William K. Boyd, *"Fiscal and Economic Conditions in North Carolina during the War,"* North Carolina Booklet, 1915

(Adapted from "Remembering the Civil War," spring 2011 issue, *Tar Heel Junior Historian* 50, no. 2: 23)

Answer Sheet: Inflation on the Civil War Home Front

1. Rates of inflation:
Bacon = 22.7
Beef = 25.0
Sugar = 7.3
Corn = 27.3
Potatoes = 30.0
Yams = 23.3
Wheat = 16.7
Flour = 27.8
2. The food item that experienced the greatest rate of inflation was potatoes.
3. Why do you think the prices of some foods increased more than others?
 - Scarcity due to blockades, disrupted commercial routes, burned crops, fewer crops because of labor shortage;
 - Price gouging
 - Some goods more important to the war effort, more in demand

Contact Information

We hope that you have enjoyed taking part in this distance learning program. We invite your comments and questions. Please take advantage of other distance learning programs offered by the North Carolina Museum of History, including History-in-a-Box kits, videos on demand, educator notebooks, and the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association, as well as professional development opportunities for educators. For more information visit <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/edu/Classroom.html>.

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